

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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DEA HQS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1813

DEA HQS FOR ENOA

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (GARBLES IN PGH 3)

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS WANT TO CLEAR NAMES

1. ON FEB 17 COL HUMBERTO CARDONA AND JUAN BEETAR APPEARED AT THE DEA OFFICE AND REQUESTED TO SEE EITHER S/A MATHEWS OR S/A PROVENCIO. AS MATTHEWS HAS BEEN TRASFERED, PROVENCIO MET THE TWO MEN. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECOGNIZED CARDONA AS AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM THE TIME CARDONA WAS WORKING WITH COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS.

2. CARDONA STATED HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THROUGH MINISTER OF DEFENSE VARON VALENCIA THAT PREDIENT LOPEZ HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION LINKING CARDONA WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING WHILE ACTING AS THE DEFENSE ATTACHE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THE PRESIDENT WAS DEMANDING TO KNOW WHY VARON WAS PERMITTING THIS. CARDONA CLAIMED HIS REPORTED ASSOCIATION WITH TRAFFICKERS WAS IN REALITY LIMITED TO EMERALD DEALINGS AND THAT THE FALSE INFORMATION MAY HAVE COME FROM GEN. MATALLANA AS A RESULT OF PROFESSIONAL JEALOUSY.

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3. BEETAR CLAIMED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE INFORMATION THE U.S. HAD ON HIM AS A TRAFFICKER THROUGH AN INTERVIEW HE PERSONALLY HAD WITH A CONSULAR OFFICER WHEN HE WAS DENIED A VISA, AND THROUGH A MEETING A PROMINENT COLOMBIAN SENATOR HAD HAD ON HIS BEHALF WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER. BEETAR ALSO DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

AND CITED HIS PORTION IN THE EMERALD TRADE AS WELL AS THE ENMITY OF GEN. MATAALLANA AS PROBABLE SOURCES OF THE MIN-INFORMATION. HE ALSO CITED AS POSSIBLE SOURCES HIS ROLE IN A HOTEL OWNERSHIP BATTLE IN CARTAGENA AND A REPUTED INCIDENT IN PUERTO RICO INVOLVING PERSONSWITH WHOM HE (BEETAR WAS NOT AQUAINTED. BEETAR CONTINUED THAT HE WAS WILLING TO PROBIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS ACCOUNTS OVERSEAS, INCLUDING ONE AT THE FLAGSHIP BANK OF MIAMI, AND TO HIRE AN ATTORNET IN THE U.S. IF NECESSARY TO CLEAR HIS NAME.

4. PROVENCIO LISTENED TO THE TWO PRESENTATIONS WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT WAS SAID AND WITHOUT REVEALLING WHAT INFORMATION WAS ACTUALLY AVAILABLE TO THE MISSION OR IDENTIFYING IN ANY WAY THE ELEMENT OF THE MISSION FROM WHICH THE INFORMATION STEMMED.

5. COMMENT: AS THE AMOUNT OF NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE GROWS, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER DEMANDS BY SUSPECTS TO CLEAR THEIR NAMES WILLALSO GROW. THIS WIL PARTI-CULARLY BE THE CASE WITH VISA REFUSALS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, OR WHEN THE PRESS, DRAWING ON WHAT EVER SOURCES IT MAY, CALLS ATTENTION TO MORE SENSATIONAL CASES.

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Message Attributes

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